



# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

*offering hospitality to the world*



# The COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY by the  
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# The PURPOSE

The purpose of Presentation Doorways is to further the mission of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our associates by sharing the news and views of the congregation with our benefactors, families and friends. Through this publication, we hope to share the charism of our congregation and to invite others to become involved in our mission.

# Your THOUGHTS & COMMENTS

We want your input. Please send or email photos, stories and information about our sisters, associates, former members, family and friends, or any ideas which relate to the aim of this publication. Submit to:

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# Cover PHOTOS

*The doorways represented on the cover are snapshots of significant doors in the Presentation history and present day ministries: (Left to right) Doorway of Hotel Hope, a nonprofit hotel for homeless women and children in New Orleans, Louisiana; Doorway of St. Vincent's Academy (now St. Columbkille) in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1879; Doorway of La Luz Hispana, a center where Hispanic people come together in Hampton, Iowa; Doorway of the Presentation Motherhouse at 2360 Carter Road in Dubuque, Iowa; Doorway of Casa Betania, home for retreats and a gathering space for students in Tarija, Bolivia.*

# PRESENTATION DOORWAYS

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## Cover PHOTO

*Sisters Matthew Cunningham and Sister Damian O'Brien celebrate 80 years in religious life - it is not only unusual for Presentation Sisters to reach 80 years of a lifetime commitment, but this was the first time two sisters celebrated in the same jubilee year. Left to right: Sisters Joellen Price, Damian O'Brien, Margaret Anne Kramer and Matthew Cunningham.*

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

*Openings*

by CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

At Community Days in July, we continued grappling with the idea of “radical hospitality.” Radical can mean the root of something or it can mean affecting the fundamental nature of something. Using the second definition, we must welcome some uncomfortable concepts that will fundamentally affect our hospitality.

One is uncertainty. As a teaching community, we have striven to nurture knowledge. By valuing faith, God calls the world to welcome uncertainty, not just knowledge. Our desire to define right and wrong, success and failure, good and bad, has prevented us from being radically hospitable to uncertainty. It is comforting to know the next steps, but God seldom works that way. When in right relationship to uncertainty, we open our minds and hearts to the other person, idea, creature or land without judgement. We must be radically hospitable to uncertainty.

Another concept that needs to be radically welcomed is the evolution of truth. We do not grasp the absolute truth in one blast. There is a struggle that needs to happen to find truth. In an interview published in the Summer 2018 *Occasional Papers*, Dr. Alan Briskin states, “Truth is not an individual mental construct. It must emerge through suffering, through cultivating our negative capability and through community.” As the statement was pondered, an exercise done with people in Bible classes came to memory. Letters were given to various students and each student was asked to read a letter out loud – “n,” “s,” “s,” “e” and “j.” When they were asked what it meant, they were puzzled for a short time until someone turned the “n” upside down to “u.” The name “Jesus” popped out. Definitely defining the letter as an “n” limited the revelation. The truth of the letters was not fully evolved until the community put their pieces of the truth together. The truth of Scripture and the truth of life are not fully evolved either until all the pieces are put together in community. And God makes that community bigger each century by revealing more of the wonders of creation – from the microorganisms to the stars, from the rocks to waves of energy. To discover truth, we need to be hospitable to its evolution. By the journey through chaos, uncertainty and change, God can take us to the bigger truths like mercy and compassion. We must be radically hospitable to the evolution of truth.

Society of Australian Presentation Sister, Raphael Consedine, expresses the mission of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, in her poem below:

You may not rest in firelight certainties,  
Secure from drifting fog of doubt and fear.  
You may not build yourself confining walls  
And say: “Thus far, and thus, and thus far shall I walk,  
And these things shall I do, and nothing more.”  
Go out! For need calls loudly in the winding lanes  
And you must seek Christ there.  
Your pilgrim heart  
Shall urge you still one pace beyond,  
And love shall be your lantern flame.

So let us embrace uncertainty and the evolution of truth with all of the doubt and fear that comes with it. You can not stay the same when you radically welcome these two. It sounds like an adventure. Let’s get going!

*Sister Carmen Hernandez Sister Rita Menart Sister Joy Peterson Sister Marilyn Breen*



## Our MISSION

We, the Sisters of the Presentation, are Catholic women who dedicate our lives to God through evangelization, prayer, service and hospitality. Our way of life is based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share in the vision of our foundress, Venerable Nano Nagle, who dared to dream of a better world for the poor, sick and uneducated of Ireland. We commit ourselves to the empowerment of women and children. We reverence and celebrate all creation as gift. We commit ourselves to confronting injustice and working for peace.

As we continue to keep Nano’s dream alive, we are pleased to share our vision with you.

## Our DIRECTION

Rooted in the Gospel, inspired by Nano Nagle and united to Presentation Sisters and associates around the world through the International Presentation Association, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa, are called to live our charism of radical hospitality in kinship with Earth and all.

### Sisters of the Presentation LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sister Carmen Hernandez

Sister Rita Menart

Sister Joy Peterson

Sister Marilyn Breen



Left to right: Sisters Mary Therese Krueger, Cheryl Demmer and Jessi Beck enjoy catching up during a break.

# Called to Radical Hospitality 2018 Community Gathering

by MARILYN BREEN, PBVM

Risking Radical Hospitality, the theme of Community Days 2018, challenged sisters and associates to speak, to act and to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle. The first day began with the celebration of 60 years of religious life for Sisters Cecelia Marie Auterman, Therese Corkery and Carolyn Link. The community expressed gratitude for the commitment, prayer and example of these women of wisdom.

Newfoundland and Labrador Presentation Sister, Miriam Martin's refrain, "Nano aflame, lighting the earth with the Gospel of love," was sung as those gathered and began their work together. The leadership team shared their hopes with the community on Wednesday morning. Sister Carmen Hernandez quoted Margaret Silf's, *The Other Side of Chaos*, who wrote, "Can you imagine that God is there alongside you saying, 'This is where we are, and this is how things are. Now together let us look for the most life-giving way forward.'" In considering the community's way forward, Sister Carmen stated, "My hope is that we will move our

commitments into action and this, without a doubt, will mean we will need to take risks, make mistakes and let go of fears and of what has become familiar to us. Isn't that what Nano did? We will only be richer and deeper by extending ourselves to a world out there which cries out daily for our help. Whatever we decide to do, let's do it. And let's do it together." These reflections were followed by time to consider how radical hospitality has challenged and stretched the group.

The Presentation community recently affirmed a corporate stance on immigration. To deepen their understanding of this, Sister Elena Hoye led those assembled in a refugee simulation. The group divided into tables of six people, each group representing a refugee family. The families had to work together to make decisions about what possessions to take as they fled their country and encountered many obstacles in their journey to freedom – a powerful and eye-opening experience for all.



Community Days provide an opportunity for the Presentation community to come together to share ideas, visions and time with one another. Left to right: Sister Janet Stelken, Associate Carol Witry, Sister Joan Lickeig and Sister Marge Healy work together in a small group; The Presentation Direction Statement; Sisters Josita Zieser and Jennifer Rausch enjoy visiting with Associate Carol Kane.

Sister Mary Therese Krueger shared photos and stories of her travel experience to the Holy Land where she met Presentation Sisters in active ministry in this troubled land. Sisters Mary Lou Specha and Julie Marsh shared their ministry with the homeless at Hotel Hope in New Orleans. They explained how this outreach aligns with the community's commitments.

One of the goals of the gathering was to consider ways to implement the Presentation Direction Statement and commitments chosen at the December chapter meeting. The commitments include the following:

- To live radical hospitality in all relationships, especially with people made poor, through our commitment to contemplation, service, advocacy, dialogue, communication and education.
- To practice nonviolence of mind and heart, speech and action as we address injustice directly and systemically.
- To form partnerships and utilize resources for the purpose of mission.
- To implement governance practices that foster dialogue and communication in decision-making.

Sisters and associates worked under the direction and facilitation of Sister Catherine Schneider, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis (OSF) of Oldenburg, Indiana. She helped them process individual ideas, share with small groups and make suggestions to the large group. Each person was encouraged to listen and to share ideas with a variety of sisters and associates, an enriching experience for all. As the group worked with the commitment statements, they reflected on what supports their efforts and what blocks them from action.

They determined that they find strength in being part of a larger network, including the International Presentation Association, and they are sometimes held back by their fear and by the reality of the world in which they live.

Although the day was filled with great conversation and enthusiasm, the death of Sister Sharon Kelchen affected the

spirits of all present. Sister Sharon touched many lives as she compassionately ministered to the homebound, the elderly and the grieving – always giving of herself! Her spirit of hospitality was evident in all she did.

Thursday evening offered time to enjoy one another and to be entertained by many talented members and associates during the "Multicultural Shindig." The night included games, talent show, photo booth, food, bingo and conversation. It was an uplifting evening after a heavy day.

With much gratitude, the 20th year of the Presentation Associate Partnership was celebrated on Friday. Associates have carried the light of Nano into their families, communities and workplaces for the past 20 years. Together, associates and sisters walk in mutuality and partnership sharing a common mission of peace, justice and hospitality as they strive to spread the light of Nano and go "one pace beyond." The day was filled with many blessings.

The last morning of the meeting allowed time for continued dialogue and for consideration of how and when the community might gather for meetings. The members indicated which of the commitments they would like to work with in the coming months. After considering how each would step one pace beyond, all were sent forth to light the world with the Gospel of Christ.

Sister Joy Peterson reflected, "There seemed to be an eagerness among participants to take the direction statement and commitments made at chapter and to make daily efforts to practice radical hospitality both individually and corporately."

Sister Carmen Hernandez added, "We continue to seek the most life-giving way forward as we risk radical hospitality, a hospitality emanating from the deepest part of our being in kinship with Earth and all people. With radical and root coming from the same word, we are called to look to our foundress, Nano Nagle, and the characteristics of her risking as she planted the roots of her challenging ministry in Ireland 150 years ago."



Sister Brigid Stanley spends time in the Nagle Center infirmary with Sister Carmelle Westemeier after working at Mercy Medical Center during the day.

## SISTER BRIGID STANLEY Guided by the Spirit

by FRANCINE QUILLIN, PBVM

Sister Brigid Stanley is a woman who has listened to the Spirit all her life. That has been the surest guide she could ever have hoped for. Listening has brought her to today, where her happy life is the result of such attentiveness to the Spirit.

Brigid was the fourth-born in a family of six girls and two boys of Dale and Rita Stanley in Dixon, Nebraska. After high school, Brigid worked at the hospital in Storm Lake, Iowa. When she registered in the parish there, she indicated an interest in a prayer group, and one day two Presentation Sisters, Angela Feeney and Concepta Joseph Milinski, knocked on her door and invited her to a Lenten prayer group. Later on, at Sister Concepta's invitation, Brigid taught the sixth grade religious education program.

But her vocation didn't really start there. As early as junior high, Brigid had thought about religious life. Undoubtedly, this was the result of Missionary Benedictine Sister Mary Philip Frenzel, OSB, saying to her in sixth grade, "You could be a sister." And Brigid began to think, "Yes, I could!" It didn't happen immediately, though, not right after high school, as was often the case. Instead, Brigid went to school at the Yankton Sacred Heart Hospital where she studied to become an X-ray technician. "I thought it would combine my love for photography and my love of science. My sister, Kathy, was a nurse, and she often talked about the difficulty in seeing patients suffer. I knew I couldn't do that, and X-ray departments have patients for a shorter time."

**The community opened up the world to me. I had opportunities of professional and personal development I never would have had otherwise. Teaching and interacting with children allowed me to learn to see Christ in people, and that makes all the difference.** *Sister Brigid Stanley*

Brigid's mother had a cousin who was a Benedictine Sister who offered to write a recommendation to her Benedictine community if Brigid wanted to enter religious life there. But Brigid wasn't ready, "I didn't want to go from home to the convent. I wanted to have some time on my own. So I went to X-ray technician school which took two years. Then I went to Storm Lake where I worked at the hospital for three years."

During this time, Brigid came to know the Presentation Sisters who worked in the parish and school in Storm Lake. In the fall of 1975, she finally decided religious life was for her. She told Sister Margaret Donnelly who was teaching there, "and Sister Margaret had me in Dubuque the next weekend. The Presentation community was having a retreat for young single women, so she wanted me to go to that."

But all was not that simple. While her mother had prayed the rosary every day for a priest or sister in the family, Brigid said, "My father was not Catholic, and he had a lot of doubts about religious life. He thought I would be walking around with my hands folded and my head bowed, and he knew that didn't 'fit' who I was. My siblings were excited for me – and a bit confused. After telling them about my decision, I started dating a boy. I was very torn at the time so I did a lot of praying and discerning. After three months, I decided I would not be at peace if I didn't try religious life. On entrance day, I knew it was the right choice!"

The struggle, however, was not over. "In my sophomore year of college, I had a crisis – should I pursue X-ray work or teaching? I really missed the hospital. So I talked with Sister Martin McCormick, our major superior, and she reminded me that our ministry was education and living in community. I was very firm in my belief that I was supposed to be here, so I set my sights on teaching, and I never looked back."

Sister Brigid attended Clarke College and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and education. "I really enjoyed teaching! I taught seventh and eighth grades in Cedar Falls, Sheldon and Humboldt, all in Iowa, and I taught seventh and eighth grade religion and seventh, eighth and ninth grade science in Hartington, Nebraska."

"The last position in Nebraska was a stroke of luck. I met the pastor of Hartington at a family wedding, and he told me he was recruiting religious sisters to teach in his school. Religious sisters had been gone from there for 10 years, and he wanted to have sisters back in the school so I said 'Yes.'"

After the first year, Sister Brigid was joined by Sister Jane Conrad who taught part-time in the school and worked part-time in the parish. After almost 10 years in Nebraska, Sister Jane left for a different ministry. A couple years after that, Sister Brigid wanted to live in community so she returned to the Presentation Motherhouse to begin a new ministry. "I decided to take certified nurse aide training classes at Northeast Iowa Community College, and, when I finished, I was offered a CNA position at Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque, Iowa. I had come full circle!"

"The community opened up the world to me. I had opportunities of professional and personal development I never would have had otherwise. The community was supportive, and always compassionate when I was troubled. Teaching and interacting with children allowed me to learn to see Christ in people, and that makes all the difference."

Another supporter in Sister Brigid's life is her mother, "All through my life, before and after joining religious life, my mother has always been my spiritual mentor. She has taught me that my relationship with Jesus was the surest path to fulfillment. I hope to be able to live up to her example in relating to Jesus."

Every vocation in life has its struggles and questions. And in the end, that usually strengthens one's vocation. That is what happened for Sister Brigid. While she is grateful to the community for their support, the Presentation community is grateful to her for enduring the struggle, for seeking advice and for the excellent service to others that she has given through her varied ministries. She is a true daughter of Nano Nagle, always seeing where she is needed and ministering to God's people there.



Sisters Brigid Stanley (right) and Jane Conrad (left) celebrate Sister Brigid's mother, Rita's, 90th birthday.



Left to right: 60th jubilarians: Sisters Cecelia Marie Auterman, Carolyn "Carrie" Link and Therese Corkery.

## Women of Great Wisdom 60th Jubilee Celebration

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

On July 18, Sisters Cecelia Marie Auterman, Therese Corkery and Carolyn "Carrie" Link celebrated their 60th anniversary of entering religious life with the Sisters of the Presentation. The theme of the day was based on Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16, "Wisdom is radiant and unfading. She graciously appears to them in their paths and meets them in every thought."

Congregational leadership member, Sister Rita Menart, greeted the assembly by proclaiming the day one of jubilee, acknowledged the jubilarians' readiness to respond to the Spirit of God with wisdom and love and called for the celebration to begin.

Scripture readings from Wisdom and Matthew were the heart of the homily by jubilarian, Sister Carrie, who reflected on the 60-year journey. As she and her classmates continue to experience the invitation to be vigilant and to "live in" the Kingdom of God, Sister Carrie reflected that the "light of our torches at the start of each new day helps us to be aware that we all are living in the Kingdom of God and our daily lives lift our souls to the Divine."

In their renewal of vows, the jubilarians promised to listen to the voice of God, to share everything in common and to embrace their sisters and brothers with unconditional love.

### Sister Cecelia Marie Auterman

Sister Cecelia Marie, originally from Monona, Iowa, daughter of the late George and Leona McGill Auterman, entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1958 and professed final vows in 1967.

Currently of Dubuque, Sister Cecelia Marie is receptionist at the Presentation Motherhouse, Mount Loretto. She taught for 27 years in Catholic schools in Whittemore, Farley, Dubuque, Key West and Cedar Rapids, all in Iowa. Most of that time, she taught reading and math to small groups of students in grades first through eighth. For nine years she served as a teacher at Sylvan Learning Center in Dubuque. She was attendance secretary at Regis High School in Cedar Rapids for three years.

Sister Cecelia's skills also abound in the art of baking. She provides sweet treats for shut-ins, for Mount Loretto festivities, for bake sales and for friends and family, especially for the sisters on the assisted living floor. When pie is on the menu at the motherhouse, she makes the pie crusts. Sister Cecelia's math and reading skills shine in her avid pursuit of a game of Scrabble or other card games. Dedicated to integrated wellness, she walks almost daily and always has a good novel to read.

Reflecting on her years of religious life, Sister Cecelia states, "These 60 years have passed rather quickly, it seems. My varied experiences have been enriching. I have been greatly blessed as a member of this community."

### Sister Therese Corkery

Sister Therese, originally from Fairbank, Iowa, daughter of the late J. C. and Margaret Staebell Corkery, entered the Presentation community in 1958 and professed final vows in 1966.

Since 2013, Sister Therese is serving a second assignment as a missionary in Bolivia. In Entre Ríos, she currently works with adults on sacramental preparation classes, coordinates the baptism and marriage preparation teams and works with ongoing formation in the parish. In the city of Tarija, Sister Therese coordinates the use of Casa Betania, a gathering area for retreats, for university students to work on group projects and a space for meetings. She also volunteers at CEEBA, a school for the differently-abled, and at VIDA DIGNA, a home for teenagers who experienced sexual, physical, mental or psychological abuse.

Sister Therese's earliest ministry was as classroom teacher of home economics, food and nutrition in Catholic high schools in Mason City, Dubuque and Waterloo, all in Iowa. She was also Home Economics Head at Clarke College in Dubuque. She first journeyed as a missionary to Bolivia in 1972, serving as director of the Academia de la Presentación in Entre Ríos from 1973 to 1987. Returning to the U.S. in 1987, Sister Therese was co-director of La Posada del Valle, a foster home for differently-abled and medically-needy children in San Juan, Texas. For 11 years, she was a caregiver at Comfort House in McAllen, Texas, and at Aurora House in Weslaco, Texas, a non-profit residence for the terminally ill.

What wisdom has Sister Therese received throughout her years as a Presentation Sister? "Religious life is a call to continue to follow the Gospel message professed by my parents and godparents at my baptism," she states. "As a Presentation Sister, this call continues to lead me to be in solidarity with those made poor."

### Sister Carolyn "Carrie" Link

Sister Carrie, originally from Waukon, Iowa, daughter of the late Elmer and Eleanor Ernster Link, entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1958 and professed final vows in 1966.

Currently of Monticello, Minnesota, Sister Carrie is liturgist at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Mound, Minnesota, and Christian initiation director and spiritual director at the Church of St. Henry in Monticello since 1990.

Previously she taught and was principal in Catholic schools from 1963 to 1983 in Lawler, Farley, Sheldon and Dubuque, all in Iowa, and in Oregon, Illinois. She also served as pastoral minister from 1983 to 1990 in Knoxville and Nevada, Iowa.

As an artist trained in classical realism, Sister Carrie uses her artistic abilities for many projects including colored pencil paintings and iconography. Her portrait of Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, is popular across the Presentation world. Her artistry is also evident in various facets of her liturgical ministry.

Celebrating the wisdom of life and vocation, Sister Carrie reflects, "Wisdom has made herself known throughout the winding lanes of my religious life. As a 17-year-old, I would never have imagined all that would encompass my journey: the joys, challenges and times of deep gratitude. Today, as with the ways of wisdom, I have the long view of my life. All comes together in the mystery of God's grace."

## Ministry Updates



**Sister Marilyn Breen**  
Congregational Leadership,  
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa



**Sister Julianne Brockamp**  
In Process, Rapid City, South Dakota



**Sister Beth Driscoll**  
In Process, Omaha, Nebraska



**Sister Suzanne Gallagher**  
Volunteer / Librarian,  
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa



**Sister Carmen Hernandez**  
Congregational Leadership,  
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa



**Sister Elena Hoye**  
Volunteer, Dubuque, Iowa



**Sister Maura McCarthy**  
Community Prayer and Service,  
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa



**Sister Rita Menart**  
Congregational Leadership,  
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa



**Sister Joy Peterson**  
Congregational Leadership,  
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa



**Sister Joellen Price**  
Liturgist, Sisters of the Presentation,  
Dubuque, Iowa

# Models of Radical Hospitality

## 80th Jubilee Celebration

by BETH KRESS, PBVM

On August 15, Sisters Matthew Cunningham and Damian O'Brien celebrated their 80th anniversary of religious life with the Sisters of the Presentation. The theme of the jubilee was based on the celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They entered the Sisters of the Presentation in 1938 and professed final vows in 1944.

Sister Joan Lickteig greeted and welcomed all present to the liturgy. In congratulating the jubilarians, she emphasized the extraordinariness of the occasion: how unusual it is for anyone to reach 80 years of a lifetime commitment. In 144 years of the Dubuque Presentation congregation, only six sisters have celebrated 80 years, and never have two sisters celebrated in the same jubilee year.

The readings of the day dignified the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the Presentation Sisters; celebrated Sisters Matthew and Damian's Christian vocation to live joy, kindness, prayer, thanksgiving and peace; and honored Mary in her visit to Elizabeth and her Magnificat as a model for living the Presentation charism of radical hospitality.

### Sister Matthew Cunningham

Sister Matthew, daughter of the late John F. and Anna Mahoney Cunningham, was born in Albert Lea, Minnesota, but lived most of her life in Clare, Iowa. Currently of Dubuque, Sister Matthew serves in community prayer and service at the Presentation Motherhouse, Mount Loretto. For over 50 years, she taught piano, organ and instrumental music in Catholic elementary and high schools in Ryan, Fairbank, Farley, Charles City, Storm Lake, Waukon, Mason City, Algona and Whittemore, all in Iowa. She also served as a parish organist.

Sister Matthew has possessed a passion for music since childhood. She shared her talents when she retired in 1995, and for several years, accompanied the sisters for Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours. Putting new words to familiar melodies, she would compose parodies for special occasions. With changes in her health, Sister Matthew continues to appreciate the music provided by other sisters and associates.

Reflecting on her 80 years of religious life, Sister Matthew states, "My religious vocation is a great blessing for me and always has been. I rely heavily on God's generous gifts of grace. This jubilee celebrates a life that brings me closer to God and more able to do God's will. I pray for vocations to spread and teach Gospel values and the mission of Nano Nagle."



Left to right: Sisters Damian O'Brien and Matthew Cunningham.

### Sister Damian O'Brien

Sister Damian, originally from Ryan, Iowa, is the daughter of the late Dr. William S. and Mrs. Bernice Tumey O'Brien. Currently of Dubuque, Sister Damian serves in community prayer and service at Mount Loretto. She volunteers in the Office of Archives at the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

For 26 years, Sister Damian taught piano, organ, vocal and instrumental/band music at Catholic elementary schools in Dubuque, Dougherty, Lawler, Osage and Mason City, all in Iowa. She served in congregational leadership, formation and administration for the Presentation community, as well as, a choir director, administrator of a home for retired priest and member of the Dubuque Archdiocese Deacon Formation Team. She also served as pastoral minister at parishes in Charles City and Castle Grove-Coggon-Prairieburg cluster, all in Iowa, and in St. Paul, Minnesota. During her years in parish ministry, Sister Damian accompanied at parish liturgies.

Celebrating this jubilee moment and the meaning of her religious vocation, Sister Damian reflects, "After 80 years as a religious, I think it is the best decision I've ever made. I have always aimed to serve and to be of help to others. I thank the Lord for being so good to me. The life and work of our Presentation foundress, Nano Nagle, is so inspiring and inviting. Nano's service seems so easy despite the hardships she endured; and yet she persevered. She has been a great model for me. And her lantern still lights the way."

A Benefit to  
Support Charitable  
Ministries

## Arts & Crafts Boutique and Bake Sale

Saturday, October 27, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sisters of the Presentation  
2360 Carter Road  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Lakeside Door Entrance

All proceeds will help support:

### Excel Program, Okolona, Mississippi

Afterschool remedial education program  
where Sister Jean Ann Meyer ministers

### Crescent Community Health Center, Dubuque, Iowa

Affordable medical and dental care

Find unique, hand-crafted gifts by Presentation Sisters, associates and friends. Gifts range from hand-woven baskets to trivets to watercolor paintings to jewelry to greeting cards and much more. Avoid the consumer rush and start your Christmas shopping now. There will also be delicious bakery items for sale.

Call Sister Dolores Zieser at 563-588-2008  
for more information.

## All Souls' Day

Remember Your Loved Ones on November 2, 2018



May you see God's light  
on the path ahead,  
when the road you walk is dark.

May you always hear,  
even in your hour of sorrow,  
the gentle singing of a lark.

When times are hard,  
may the hardness never turn  
your heart to stone.

May you always remember,  
when shadows fall –  
you do not walk alone.

Irish Blessing

From the earliest times, Christians prayed for the dead. Scripture declares it is good and pious to pray for the dead. Tradition tells us we have a role to play interceding for each other, including those who have died.

Throughout the month of November, the Sisters of the Presentation commemorate the faithful departed. Remembrance cards are mailed in early October. The sisters encourage you to return the card with dates of those you mourn, and the sisters will remember them in daily prayer.

You may submit your intentions to Karen Tuecke at [partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org) with the following information for each loved one:

Name of Loved One \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_



In retirement, Sister Deborah Paige is dedicated to community prayer and service and gardening – where she feels closest to God.

## SISTER DEBORAH PAIGE A Master Gardener

by BROOKE BODDICKER, COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

To answer the question, “Where in the World is Sister Deborah Paige?” it is most appropriate to first look at where she has been. Sister Deborah’s story in the Presentation community began in 1959. Although Sister Deborah taught business education for Bishop Garrigan High School, Waukon High School, St. Edmond Catholic School and Wahlert Catholic High School, she does not live her life with a “strictly business” mentality.

In her 46 years of serving various communities as a Presentation Sister, she has brought immense joy to many young people. Sister Deborah deeply values the joy that comes from education. “I feel education of young people is the most important work we can do, and that is what I did for 46 years,” states Sister Deborah. “I think

everyone has special leanings toward certain subject areas. I guess I would have to say God gave me that talent for business subjects. I enjoyed teaching all of them – typing, shorthand, business dimensions, office practice, accounting, business law ...” While no one in her family was “business-oriented,” Sister Deborah saw the gifts God gave her for business and shared her talents generously. “Education of young people has always been very important to me, and Nano focused on teaching the young.”

Nano Nagle challenges sisters to go “one pace beyond.” Sister Deborah has certainly been up for this challenge in her ministry years as a teacher. Now, in her retirement, we see her setting an example of what it means to take that extra pace beyond. Today,

**I think our prayers bring untold graces to so many people and in so many situations. We do not know God’s plan, but so many prayers are answered, so God must be listening to us.**

*Sister Deborah Paige*

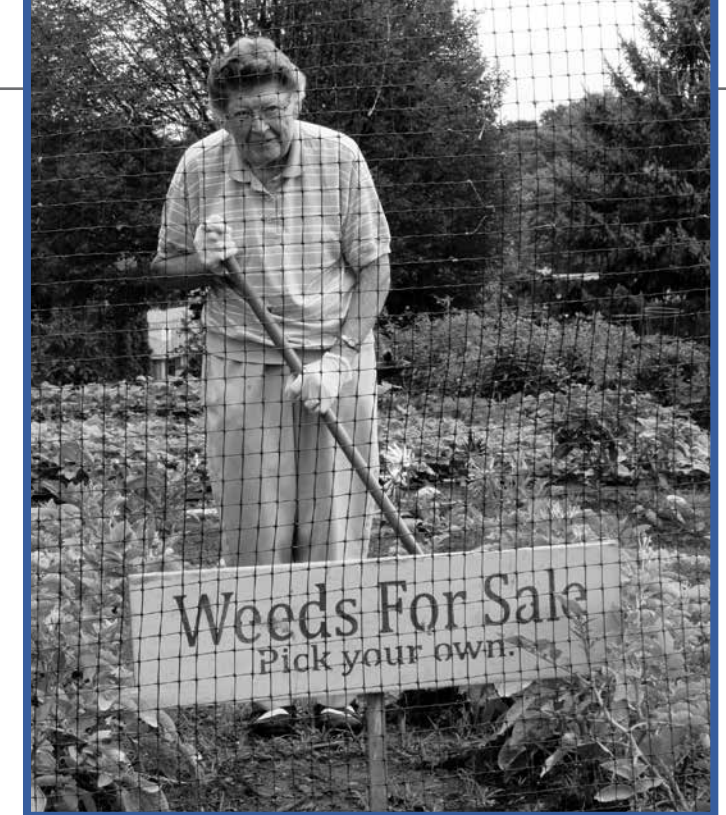
Sister Deborah is dedicated to community prayer and gardening. Both acts are a way for her to continue brightening her life, and to light a path for others.

In her retirement, Sister Deborah feels she can make a real difference through her prayer life. At 88 years old, she is still able to get down on both knees to genuflect for adoration. “I cherish my time at the Power of Prayer Adoration Chapel. There is a special closeness with Jesus during that time ... I have been going for about four years now,” expresses Sister Deborah. “I think our prayers bring untold graces to so many people and in so many situations. We do not know God’s plan, but so many prayers are answered, so God must be listening to us.”

Gardening is another way Sister Deborah sees God’s plan working. When she was growing up, her family had a large garden that she helped with. That, along with her love of nature, inspired Sister Deborah to make gardening a priority in her retirement. “Everyone has been given special interests and talents by God and I guess that gardening is one of mine,” she states. “I enjoy gardening and I spend a lot of time in the garden. It brings me very close to God and all creation. Everything comes from God, and it is so special to see plants grow according to God’s plan.”

A walk around Mount Loretto will reveal Sister Deborah’s lemon trees flourishing. And when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade. Devotion to St. Francis de Sales has inspired this type of sunny inspiration to Sister Deborah’s life. He reminds her, “Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow. The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow, and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you the unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious imaginings.” While this quote makes Sister Deborah more aware of relying on God’s plan for all things, she believes the words are significant in all circumstances. “It is a good antidote for worry. Everyone could follow it.”

Sister Deborah certainly shows no worry when trying new things. She participates in several community events throughout the year, such as outings to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium or the Trolleys of Dubuque. “Going on field trips



Sister Deborah’s garden welcomes volunteer weeders!

is a nice change of pace and a way to get out and do something different. It gives me energy to get out of the house,” reflects Sister Deborah.

Exploring beyond the motherhouse has proven enjoyable for her, as she is able to meet different people and broaden her interests. Aside from her dedications to prayer and gardening, Sister Deborah specifies she likes to “walk outside, read, shop, do puzzles and bake.”

It is true that Sister Deborah’s mentality is not strictly business. In fact, she says what gives her the most pleasure living religious life at this time is “the opportunity to have so many spiritual benefits through daily liturgy, office, rosary and prayer.”

She is extremely grateful for 59 years of being a Presentation Sister. “My community has provided me with food, clothing and shelter, healthcare and transportation, whenever there is a need,” says Sister Deborah.

Although these basic necessities have been provided, something she holds close to her heart in retirement is to know, “I received many education benefits and had many opportunities offered for personal growth.”

*Do you have news to share?*

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Please send your news items to:  
doorways@dubuquepresentations.org.**



# Presentation Lantern Center 2017 Service Awards

Volunteers at the Presentation Lantern Center give a helping hand in the roles of tutor, board member, donor and partner. In 2009, the center established an annual tradition of presenting Presentation Lantern Center Service Awards to honor volunteers for their dedicated service. These awards demonstrate the light these volunteers offer others through their hard work, presence and hospitality to immigrants, which is the core of the center's mission. This year's recipients are Mary Hoelscher, Larry Kruse and Sister Beth Kress. In recognition of their service, the recipients were presented with a certificate and a lantern as a symbol of the light they represent.

## Mary Hoelscher

Mary, a retired nurse and Hospice volunteer for nearly 20 years, has volunteered at the Presentation Lantern Center since January 2016, giving a total of 125 volunteer hours. Mary has a compassionate spirit, always looking out for students' needs beyond language tutoring and is often available to fill in as a substitute tutor when others need time off.



Mary expressed that her time tutoring has added so much to her life, including joy. Her work at the center has brought her more awareness and given her more context and understanding of world news, opening her eyes even more. She describes her volunteer experience as "eye-opening" and quoted a simple but profound statement she recently read on the topic of spirituality: "Love is the eye." She feels her experience at the center has widened her vision and opened her heart.

One of her former students from Syria expresses, "As Mary taught me, I realized she is a person of great love and humanity and we soon became good friends. This relationship means a lot to me ... I am grateful for everything she has done to help me."

## Larry Kruse

Larry Kruse has volunteered at the Presentation Lantern Center since May 2016, giving a total of 245 hours teaching English and supporting the center in other ways. He taught for 27 years at the junior high level in Holy Cross, Iowa, and has taught an almost equal amount of years at Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta, where he taught English, instructed English-language learners and currently works there part-time as a writing tutor.



Two of Larry's current students, from Taiwan and Ecuador, spoke words of appreciation of Larry saying, "You teach me not only about the definitions of words from books and newspapers, but also about the true and interesting life of America. Your sense of humor, your kindness of heart and your willingness to always offer a favor makes me feel blessed and lucky."

Larry is the mascot of hospitality at the center, always showering everyone with cookies for the breaks scheduled half-way through each two-hour tutoring session. Larry's sense of humor continually lifts the spirits of those around him.

## Sister Beth Kress

Sister Beth Kress has volunteered her public relations and communications skills at the center for 13 years. Among the projects which Sister Beth coordinated and managed for Presentation Lantern Center were the newsletter, publicity, website, Facebook and Twitter accounts, advertisements and promotions, special announcements and all external messaging.



The center is grateful for Sister Beth's outstanding commitment and superb work over the years. In reflecting on her years with the center, Sister Beth expresses her gratitude, "It was an honor to serve Presentation Lantern Center throughout the years. The mission of the center will always be near to my heart and part of my commitment to social justice as a Presentation Sister. I continue to advocate for immigrants, refugees and marginalized persons through my participation in social media."

In addition to those honored with the 2017 Presentation Lantern Center Service Awards, the center appreciates all 111 volunteers who gave a sum total of 3,864 volunteer hours.

"Nano Nagle would be proud of what the Presentation Lantern Center team has accomplished in the last 15 years since its opening on November 13, 2002. And Nano would urge all not to stop here, but continue to go 'one pace beyond,'" states Sarah Gieseke, former executive director of the center. "Immigrants are resilient, hardworking and contribute so much to American society. They are inspiring, and give all the opportunity not to 'rest in firelight certainties' and 'build ourselves confining walls' as Sister Raphael Consedine's poem cautions us against."



Top photo: Back row: Sisters Corine Murray, Joy Peterson, Dolores Zieser, Rosalyn Ulfers, Francine Quillin, Cecelia Marie Auterman, Elena Hoyer, Shazia Lal Gill, Donna Demmer, Marge Healy, Barbara Rastatter, Beth Kress; Front row: Sisters Jeanine Kuhn, Mary Therese Krueger, Suzanne Gallagher and Jessi Beck. Right photo: Pakistan Presentation Sister Shazia Lal Gill.



# Presentation Presence in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

**In July 2018, Presentation Sister Shazia Lal Gill, from Rawalpindi, Pakistan, visited the Dubuque Presentation community after participating at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York City. Sister Shazia shared stories of her country and her Presentation Sisters. Below highlights her words to the sisters:**

Presentation Sisters have ministered for 123 years in Pakistan where education has been the traditional focus of the congregation's work. The sisters minister in nine Presentation schools, two diocesan and one Catholic Board of Education school. The schools have an effective educational system for all Muslim, Hindu, Sikhs and Christian children.

In a country of 200 million where nearly 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line, engaging communities on a host of social issues is important. In 2017, the sisters selected 18 economically vulnerable communities near their convents to respond directly to the people's immediate needs. With the help of community leaders, discussions and interviews with local citizens, the sisters found that none of the communities had access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities. In addition, all of these communities faced serious problems with drug addiction among people of all ages. The sisters and local community leaders worked together to develop a plan to address these threats and then worked with local government leaders to address these issues.

The communities also experience challenges posed by religious intolerance toward non-Muslims, including Christians and Hindus. Religious intolerance is part of the culture and society due to the blasphemy law and biased material in textbooks. More

than 96 percent of Pakistanis are Muslims, and the first purpose of these laws is to protect Islamic authority. The Presentation schools believe they must play an important role building bridges and working for peace and harmony in the society.

While the literacy rate is 57 percent, less than one-fifth of Pakistani women have been to school, and Pakistan stands very low on the United Nation's Gender Development Index. Women face social and cultural barriers at all levels. They lack job opportunities, have poor quality of education in rural areas, suffer sexual harassment in the workplace, forced into marriages and can be subjected to honor killing. A commission was recently set up specifically to give aid to all the women who face sexual harassment.

Sister Shazia's greatest desire is that, as Pakistan commits to the SDGs, the country's leaders will work on gender equality and achieve it by 2030. She says, "Indeed, the world needs women leaders at all levels if we want to be a progressive country."

Sister Shazia shared her gratitude for the opportunities she has had to experience the International Presentation family. Whether it is in Dubuque, Iowa, USA; Australia; the Philippines or Zambia, Africa, she experiences the unity of the Presentation family through Presentation hospitality and love for the poor.



# Celebrating 20 Years of Partnerships and Relationships

by JOAN BRINCKS, PBVM, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

In joy and gratitude, Presentation Sisters, associates and employees gathered for the 2018 Community Days. With the theme, Risking Radical Hospitality, everyone engaged in conversation about mission, exploring what radical hospitality looks like in action. During this opportune time, relationships were formed and others were renewed. These relationships will continue to grow as sisters and associates connect in spirit and love throughout the year.

Associate Colleen Vlasisavljevich describes those days together, "Our gathering was an experience of celebration, sorrow and affirmation. The opportunity to dig deep and share as the days of processing passed, brought wisdom, insight and a little humor. My concluding challenge is to be hospitable to others, as well as myself. In the midst of these days, Sister Sharon Kelchen's death brought an unexpected depth of sacredness and sadness to all present. I saw the spirit of hospitality alive in the welcome of Sister Sharon's family, relatives, friends and Presentation family."

Friday was dedicated specifically to celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Associate Partnership. The sisters and associates spent the morning in separate sessions. Each group took some time to reflect on what they would like to say to one another after 20 years of partnering. In the afternoon, sisters and associates reconnected again to share responses. They were first invited to join hands in silence and feel the pulsating energy of their relationship that has grown and enriched them during

the past 20 years. Mutual gratitude was shared by all as they participate in the Presentation mission with energy, passion, leadership and presence. Many hopes and desires for moving forward together were shared as this journey of blessing and challenge continues to evolve.

In a recognition ritual, the words of Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, affirmed the importance of this partnership, "Religious and associates need one another because true companions make possible the growth of the other."

During the ceremony, each associate was called forth by name and recognized for their years of commitment. Sisters asked God's blessings upon the associates and thanked them for accepting and deepening God's call to holiness and service as they practice radical hospitality. In turn, associates asked God's blessings upon the sisters and thanked them for their friendship and example of carrying the light of Nano, offering hope and love to our broken world. In closing, sisters and associates were assigned prayer partners, and they committed to pray for one another in the coming year.

Associate Cady Jo Windish left the gathering energized, "I come away refreshed and excited about carrying Nano's flame to others. While the task is daunting, fire drives me forward, as I am sure it does for others. As an associate, I am very blessed to have the sisters and other associates in my life and will be forever thankful."

*Left to right: Associate Lois Loughren is recognized for her years of associate commitment by Cindy Pfiffner, associate co-director; Sister Rosalyn Ulfers and Laurie Noel light a candle during a prayer ritual; Associate Billie Greenwood and Sister Marilou Irons enjoy catching up with one another; Associates bless the sisters in gratitude – Associates Madonna Moeller, Anastasia Nicklaus-Schmelzer, Becky Searcy, Marlene Von Fumetti and Cady Jo Windish; Associates Colleen Venter, Sister Virgie Luchsinger, SFCC, and Janet Leonard reconnect during a break.*

As a remembrance of the 20th anniversary of the Associate Partnership, sisters and associates received a card including the following reflective poem written by Associate Char McCoy.

*twenty years ago  
invited to travel together  
share, pray, challenge, serve  
old and young  
male and female  
vowed, single, married  
Nano guides the partnership  
to share Christ's light  
with the scared, lonely, and poor  
we celebrate in faith, hope, and love  
stepping into the next 20 years*

## In Memory of Charlotte King

April 15, 1925 - August 4, 2018

Associate Charlotte King died on August 4, 2018, at her son's home in Woodbury, Minnesota. She had a long history with the Presentation Sisters as she was taught by them as a young girl in Lawler, Iowa. Charlotte is also the sister of Sister Alberta Lynch and cousin to Sister Agnes Marie Lynch.



After World War II, Charlotte lived in Europe and continued to travel extensively throughout her life. Charlotte was widowed when her son, Peter, was two years old. They lived with Charlotte's father while she studied for her teaching certificate from University of Northern Iowa. Charlotte taught high school, college and children with disabilities in Mankato and St. Peter, Minnesota. She had a beautiful singing voice and was often asked to sing for weddings and funerals. A passion for politics, reading, bridge, entertaining and animals, especially her cat, Winslow, kept Charlotte's life full. She remained active in her parish, Guardian Angels, for as long as her health allowed. Charlotte is survived by her son Peter, his wife, three grandchildren and many friends.

Charlotte became a Presentation associate on July 18, 2003, at the age of 78. She was part of the North Star associate group with Sisters Dolores Zieser and Janet Stelken. In her initial request to become a Presentation associate, Charlotte wrote, "Every day I will try to be more diligent, more steadfast, more patient, more cheerful in the service of others, and always, always to be more loving." Charlotte will be remembered as a woman who lived life with grace and generosity.

### Associate Partnership

For more information, please visit:

[WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG](http://WWW.DUBUQUEPRESENTATIONS.ORG)

Office of Associate Partnership

563-588-2008

[associates@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:associates@dubuquepresentations.org)



Left to right: New associates, LaVeta Jarrett, Cady Jo Windish and Rachel Evans, made their commitment on July 1, 2018.

## New Associate Partnerships

by CINDY PFIFFNER, ASSOCIATE PARTNERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Three new associates made their commitment to the Presentation Associate Partnership on July 1, 2018. Rachel Evans, LaVeta Jarrett and Cady Jo Windish promised to carry Nano's light into the world and to support and live out the charism and mission of the Presentation community. Their energy and passion for serving others is inspiring.

Rachel lives in Forest City, Iowa, and works in the water line department at Winnebago Industries. As the youngest of six children, she learned a great deal about life simply by watching and listening to her siblings. Rachel teaches confirmation classes at St. Patrick Church in Lake Mills and enjoys reading and watching YouTube video essays. Rachel and Cady went through the orientation process with Sisters Rita Cameron and Maura McCarthy and Associate Mary Irene Stanton. Rachel, her mom, brother and sister-in-law recently took a trip of a lifetime to Italy where they saw Pope Francis. Rachel says, "I look forward to sharing my gifts with others and offering an encouraging presence. God is full of surprises, and I hope to find even more surprises as a Presentation associate."

LaVeta lives in Hutchinson, Kansas, and is a nurse practitioner. Caring and advocating for the physically and mentally ill and addicted persons is her passion. She loves being "Nana" to 5-year-old Isabella and seeing the world through Isabella's eyes. LaVeta

went through her orientation process as part of an online Zoom group including Sister Julie Marsh and Associates Bren Connors, Donna Ewy, Bernie Graves, Billie Greenwood and Carol Witry. LaVeta states, "Since beginning the orientation process my world view has grown more than I could have imagined. It has given me the opportunity to reflect on where God is calling me and to look deeper into my strengths and how to use them to further serve the most vulnerable."

Cady went through the orientation process with Rachel in Forest City, but has recently moved to Morton, Illinois, where she teaches eighth grade English. She likes to travel and spent two years in Indonesia with the Peace Corps. Cady also loves music, dancing, reading, writing and hanging out with friends and family. During spring break in college, Cady went on a service trip to New Orleans with Sister Rita Cameron where she learned how to discern God's will. Cady reflects, "I love the story of Nano walking around Cork with her lantern, and I want to incorporate that idea into my daily life. I believe becoming an associate committed to Nano's values will help me build my relationship with Christ and the Church. I am so excited for this upcoming chapter of my life."

The Presentation community welcomes Rachel, LaVeta and Cady to the Presentation Associate Partnership.

## World-Wide Radical Hospitality Our Lady of Grace Church

by DIANNE MCDERMOTT, ASSOCIATE

Presentation associate, Dianne McDermott believes in the saying, "We can do together what we cannot do alone." In November with a call from Cookie Scherrman from Dyersville, Iowa, Dianne started making plans to visit Fond Verrettes, Haiti, a small community southeast of Port-au-Prince. St. Francis Xavier Parish and St. Jude Parish from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, have been supporting the Holy Cross Parish in Haiti for a number of years. Father Jean Lubermann is pastor of Holy Cross Parish and four other small satellite parishes in the hillsides.

On this five-day trip to Haiti, the parish group worked with the staff at the St. Clare Clinic in Fond Verrettes to set up a day-clinic at Soliette. On a rainy Wednesday, the group rode, walked, climbed and carried medicinal supplies up a steep and rocky path to tend to over 180 people until it grew too dark to do more. In order to be sure to see the doctors, some of the patients had stood in the rain and dark since 3 a.m., and yet, some had to be turned away at the end of the day. The clinic building was composed of an uneven dirt floor with sticks holding up a tin roof and walls. This same building is also used for a church and a school, as well as the only shelter for some from the storms.

At the end of trip, the parish group visited with Father Lubermann, and he indicated that if he had more money, his greatest desire would be to build a better building for the people in Soliette. With that statement, Dianne recognized the reason God had called her to make this trip.

Upon her return to the U.S., knowing she couldn't do this alone, she contacted Father Michael Schueller, of St. Elizabeth Seton parishes, to request a \$10,000 fundraiser during the upcoming Lenten season. All proceeds would go toward building a new Our Lady of Grace church/school/clinic in Soliette. Father Schueller agreed, and the fundraiser successfully hit its goal.

However, \$10,000 was not going to be enough, so Dianne turned to other sources. One of those sources was the Presentation Ministry Fund application through the Sisters of the Presentation. In March 2018, the Presentation Sisters issued a \$5,000 check to help with this project. Students from St. Elizabeth Seton School and the area Knights of Columbus helped to reach the final total of \$17,871.

In April, a check was sent to Father Lubermann who immediately began the building process by buying local materials and hiring people within his parishes. In June, the first pictures of the foundation of the structure were received. They indicated how



Left to right: Top and middle photo: Beginning foundation of new church/school/clinic at Soliette in Haiti. The new building is being built around the original building. Bottom photo: People of Soliette wait to see the doctor inside the old Our Lady of Grace Church and clinic.

much larger and stronger this structure will be compared to the original. In the end, not only will there be a new church/school/clinic building, but the project also will have provided income and work for the local people.

The vision and passion of Presentation associates such as Dianne McDermott, in collaboration with the Presentation Sisters, continues Nano Nagle's vision of world-wide radical hospitality, "If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power."

# REMEMBERING Oak Lawn, Illinois

## 1964-2005

by MARY HERMANN PLATT, PBVM, ARCHIVIST

“Four Presentation Sisters arrived in Chicago, Illinois, on August 11, 1964, to begin a new mission at St. Germaine Parish in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Sister Mary Philip Jasper was the superior, and her sisters were Sister Mary Emilie Bormann (councilor), Sister Mary Magdalen (Kay) Cota and Sister Richard Marie Kane.” This quote from the annals of the St. Germaine community describe the beginning of a new venture for the Dubuque Presentation Sisters, opening a school in a newly-established parish, their first new school east of the Mississippi. The sisters were met by the pastor, Father Walter Sheridan, who gave them the grand tour of the facilities.

St. Germaine parishioners came from a variety of national and cultural backgrounds. Some had arrived recently in the United States and retained their cultural heritages and languages. This was another first for the Dubuque sisters. Up to this time, they served in areas where national origins had become less important to the residents and accents were no longer noticeable.

Presentation presence in the parish of St. Germaine was to last from 1964 to 2005, and would encompass school and parish work. School opened on September 8, 1964, with an enrollment of 258 children in grades one through four. The staff consisted of four sisters, two lay teachers and assistant pastor, Father Anthony Clair, who taught some of the religion classes. Grades five and six were added in 1965, with grades seven and eight being added in 1966 and 1967 respectively. The church and school buildings were officially dedicated by Archbishop John Cody on May 22, 1966.

St. Germaine students initially occupied six rooms on the first floor of the building. Students from St. Linus Parish used seven classrooms on the second floor and the remaining three rooms accommodated the kindergarten students from McDonald Public School. As the number of St. Germaine students increased to include eight grades and an enrollment of 588, they eventually filled both floors of the building. The first eighth grade graduating class left St. Germaine to attend various local high schools in 1967.

For the first few years, the sisters lived several blocks from the



Left to right: The first sisters to mission at St. Germaine: Sisters Mary Magdalen (Kay) Cota, Mary Philip Jasper and Mary Emilie Bormann. Not pictured is Sister Richard Marie Kane (Associate Carol Kane).

school and commuted by car each day for classes. By 1971, a new convent was constructed on the school grounds, eliminating travel time and providing more convenient access to their classrooms. A total of 42 Presentation Sisters served in Oak Lawn, 41 in the school and one in parish ministry.

Two weather events were to impact the citizens of the Chicago area in January and April of 1967. January saw a blizzard which caused the dismissal of school for several days. While all in Oak Lawn remained safe throughout the event, many people were stranded in commuter trains for as long as 13 hours. All roads in and out of Chicago and its suburbs were closed. While students and teachers enjoyed a forced vacation, the situation caused much stress for everyone.

On April 2 of the same year, a tornado struck the Oak Lawn area, barely missing the school and convent. Collapsing buildings trapped a large number of residents, and numerous deaths were reported. A mixture of gratitude for their safety and grief over the loss of many lives occupied the emotions of the sisters for weeks afterward. The experience left many residents fearful of storms.

Presentation Sisters' work in the school continued until 1998 when Sister Beth Driscoll was assigned to the initial formation program of the Presentation community in Dubuque. Meanwhile, Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty had begun parish ministry in 1995. She worked as RCIA director, served as a member of the spiritual growth team in the parish, coordinated schedules for lectors and Eucharistic ministers, ministered with prayer groups and served as spiritual director for several people in the area.

In 2005 Sister Sheila Ann was called to St. Jude Parish in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her leaving St. Germaine signaled the end of Presentation presence in the area.

The Presentation Room at the church remains as a reminder of the first teachers in the school. It features a mural of the Presentation Motherhouse and another of the St. Germaine school and church buildings.

# AN EYE FOR BEAUTY Sister Sharon Kelchen

## May 8, 1946 - July 19, 2018

by CORINE MURRAY, PBVM

Change. Sister Sharon Kelchen knew a thing or two about change. As the first born of eight siblings, she lived in a family that changed with the birth of each new sister or brother. In her life on a farm in rural eastern Iowa, she was attuned to both the rhythm of daily life and the changing of the seasons. She had a keen eye for beauty in nature and learned about her connection to the Holy One who placed the stars in the night sky.

During her elementary school years, she took piano lessons and had a lifelong relationship with music, which provided many opportunities for her to express her creativity, enhance her ministries and develop lasting friendships.

Sister Sharon entered the Presentation community in the fall of 1964, in the midst of Vatican II, and negotiated the significant changes that followed, especially in areas of theology and the liturgy. After graduating from Clarke College in Dubuque with a degree in music, she taught music in the Farley-Bankston system, and later in Mason City, Sheldon, Key West and Algona, Iowa. She was a very creative teacher who enjoyed her students, helped them discover their talents and have fun with music. She also enhanced the liturgical celebrations in the parishes in which she served.

More change. Sister Sharon served as a principal in Farley and Storm Lake, both in Iowa, before moving to Chicago, Illinois, to serve as the liturgy coordinator at Our Lady of Guadalupe. She invited adult choirs from three parishes to sing together, a parish from the suburbs, one from an African-American community, and one from a Hispanic community, parishes where Presentation Sisters served. This venture that celebrated diversity was a great success.

In 1993 Sister Sharon returned to Dubuque to be the house coordinator at the motherhouse. For the next 10 years, she helped shepherd the community through major renovations in the building. She knew every nook and cranny. Beauty that we can see, both inside the building and in the landscaping, continue to reflect her special touch and green thumb.

After a well-earned sabbatical in 2004, she joined the team of the St. Elizabeth Pastorate, which includes Bankston, Epworth, Farley, Placid and Peosta in rural Dubuque County. As a minister of care, she often visited the grandparents of her former students.

Sister Sharon supported people through her music ministry with

the adult choir, her piano and organ skills at parish liturgies, her planning and presiding at vigil services, and her coordinating funeral liturgies. Like in her previous ministry locations, Sister Sharon touched the lives of many with her gift of hospitality.

Sister Sharon also knew how to have fun. She was a golfer, a card player and enjoyed traveling. She warmed to a good book or movie. As an excellent cook, she could always be counted on to bring a fabulous dish to any potluck.

Sister Sharon was able to stay close to her siblings, many of whom lived in the area. She was often called on to provide the music for special occasions, family weddings for sisters and brothers and the next generation.

“To live is to change and to change often is to become more perfect,” states Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman. May Sister Sharon, a woman who lived through many changes, gently rest in heaven’s keep.



# Relationally SPEAKING

*Sisters, Associates, Family, Friends in Brief*

## Human Trafficking Booth at Fair

With the initiative and guidance of Associate Sue Murphy, the Tristate Coalition Against Human Trafficking housed a booth at the Dubuque County Fair for its third year. Sisters Sheila Ann Dougherty, Anne McCormick, Marilou Irons and Joy Peterson, along with associates, Sue Murphy and Dianne McDermott, were part of the crew working the booth. The first year it seemed few people knew about human trafficking, but each year it seems awareness of this scourge is growing.



*Left to right: Sisters Joy Peterson and Marilou Irons work the Tristate Coalition Against Human Trafficking booth at the Dubuque County Fair.*

## Award Recipient Travels to Bolivia

Rachel Dunlap received the Presentation Mission Service Award which helped fund her recent trip to Bolivia, where four Presentation Sisters minister. On her arrival home, she gave a presentation to the sisters at the motherhouse. “I am so grateful for the opportunity to have spent time with the Presentation Sisters and the Bolivian people,” she expresses. “This experience opened up my eyes to global poverty in a way that isn’t possible by simply looking at statistics and pictures. Bolivians are some of the most generous people I’ve met and very inspirational to me. I hope to take the sisters up on their request to come back soon!”



*Left to right: Sister Therese Corkery, Rachel Dunlap, Sister Suzanne Takes, Baby Angelisa and Sister Mery Cari Paz.*

## A Piece of the Past

On August 8, 2018, a 100-year-old piece of the past arrived in the archives. JoAnn Horsfield and her sister, Larita Kurt, both from Monticello, Iowa, brought a Certificate of Merit issued in 1918 from the St. Vincent Academy, a boarding school built by the Presentation Sisters. The certificate was found in a trunk when their aunt was cleaning out. Their mother, Mary Grace Callahan, received the award for having completed the “grammar grades,” grades first through sixth. Mary Grace was a boarder at St. Vincent’s during her early school years. Both JoAnn and Larita grew up in Placid, Iowa, and talk fondly about some of the Presentation Sisters who taught there.



*Left to right: JoAnn Horsfield and her sister, Larita Kurt.*

## Volunteer Recognition Award

In 2013 Sister Sheila Ann Dougherty began her ministry of music to veterans at Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, Illinois. She spent six consecutive months in 2013 at the care center and continued to return every three months in the following years through 2018.



Playing “hits through the years” for various groups and involving some in sing-alongs, others in “name that tune,” provided fun moments for all.

Recently Sister Sheila Ann received a gold lapel pin for 500 hours of volunteer service at the center. Reflecting on her time spent with the veterans, Sister Sheila Ann shares, “It was a wonderful ministry for me, done in honor of my Dad, who was a World War I disabled veteran. Besides playing the piano, I had good conversations with so many veterans. They continue to remain in my thoughts and prayers.”

# Mount Loretto AND BEYOND

Featured below are special times in the lives of Dubuque Presentation Sisters and associates, near and far.



## 2018 LCWR Conference

Clockwise: During the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) assembly, Sisters Carmen Hernandez, Rita Menart and Marilyn Breen had the opportunity to share breakfast with Sister Simone Campbell from NETWORK. They discussed NETWORK'S upcoming projects, which includes a "Nuns on the Bus" trip for the fall, leading up to the election. LCWR always takes action on behalf of justice at the conference. This year they reaffirmed a 2016 resolution against racism as part of the 2018 assembly.

Live your passion



through prayer

Prayer is at the heart of our lives.  
Deepen your prayer life as a Presentation Sister.

Contact Sister Jessi Beck at  
[vocations@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:vocations@dubuquepresentations.org)  
[bit.ly/pbvmvowedmembership](http://bit.ly/pbvmvowedmembership)

SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION  
DUBUQUE, IOWA

**You are invited to join us.**

September 24, 2018  
October 22, 2018  
November 26, 2018  
Centering Prayer  
6:15-7:00 p.m.  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

September 28-29, 2018  
Chicago's Got Sisters Retreat  
Chicago, Illinois  
To learn more, contact Sister Jessi Beck at  
[vocations@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:vocations@dubuquepresentations.org)

October 27, 2018  
Arts & Crafts Boutique & Bake Sale  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Sisters of the Presentation  
Dubuque, Iowa

November 27, 2018  
Giving Tuesday  
Help others through the gift of  
your time, treasure or talents.  
#GivingTuesday  
[www.givingtuesday.org](http://www.givingtuesday.org)  
To learn more, contact Karen Tuecke at  
[partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org](mailto:partnersinmission@dubuquepresentations.org)

For more information about news and  
events of the Sisters of the Presentation  
of Dubuque, please visit our website at  
**[www.dubuquepresentations.org](http://www.dubuquepresentations.org)**  
or call 563.588.2008.

**Please pray with us.**

November 2, 2018  
Feast of All Souls

November 13, 2018  
Foundation Day, 1874  
Presentation Lantern Center  
Established in 2002, Dubuque

November 21, 2018  
Presentation Day

21st of each month  
Pray for Vocations

25th of each month  
Mass for Benefactors

Please help us keep our database up-to-date.  
Please change this label and send it back to  
us, call us at 563.588.2008 or email us at  
info@dubuquepresentations.org. Thank you.

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## Nano Nagle and Her Legacy

Nano's contemplative spirit and the sum of her attributes guided her understanding of her own life and call, her relationship with others, with her world, and with life itself. As we continue to celebrate the 300th anniversary of her birth, may we, too, be women and men of welcoming hearts, whose words and actions continue to speak the language of the heart each day. Through small everyday activities, let us use our voice, our prayer, our ability, our actions and our relationships to act in partnership with others for global justice. Everything we do has a global effect.



Photo credit: Nano Nagle Birthplace, Ballygriffin, Co. Cork

### Love ♥♥

*An unconditional commitment to selflessly serve, truthfully communicate, fearlessly protect, gracefully forgive and enduringly remain in relationship with and for the sake of another.*

- Encourage others to pursue what they love.
- Express gratitude for someone's presence in your life.
- Offer an act of kindness without expectations.

### Daring ♥♥

*To have an imaginative vision and willingness to assert integrity of purpose; to be adventurous; to be a risk-taker, fearless or courageous.*

- Step outside your comfort zone.
- Do something you have been putting off due to fear.
- Get to know someone new.

### Courage ♥♥

*In spite of fear of danger, discomfort or pain, one has the mental fortitude to carry on with a commitment, plan or decision, knowing it is the right or best course of action.*

- Take a stand against what you believe is immoral.
- Face the obstacles in life head on.
- Take ownership of your actions.

### Endurance ♥♥

*The ability to withstand hardship or adversity; the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant and difficult process or situation without giving up.*

- Always look for a silver lining.
- Practice taking one extra step when you have reached your limit.
- Remind yourself of the benefits of your actions.